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**ROMNEY-HEALEY ADMINISTRATION AWARDS
ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS TO LEOMINSTER**

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Secretary Stephen R. Pritchard visited the City of Leominster to announce, on behalf of Governor Romney and Lieutenant Governor Healey, \$538,000 in Water Protection Supply and Self Help Grants. This year EOEA has announced 12 Water Protection Supply Grants and 15 Self Help Grants.

"It is imperative we protect our open land around our water supplies," said Pritchard. "The work done by city officials in Leominster to protect their well and reservoir is exemplary and is a model for other towns to follow. For the past 10 years we have been working with Leominster as they protect more and more land. I am very impressed by their dedication."

The Water Protection Supply Grant for \$300,000 is being used to purchase Monoosnoc Hill. This is a 57 acres parcel of forested land located in a critical zone for the Notown Reservoir. This reservoir is Leominster's largest drinking water supply, serving approximately 60% of the City's population. This parcel connects to thousands of acres of protected open space surrounding the reservoir.

The Self Help Grant is for \$238,000 for the purchase of 16.5 acres adjacent to the city well. The well provides Leominster with 20% of its water supply. Along with this grant the Romney-Healey administration has awarded 14 other Self Help Grants worth over \$5.1 million protecting 1,040 acres of land.

For further information on EOEA grants please visit the Division of Conservation Services at: <http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs/default.htm>.